

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Terry M. Scutella, Chairman
Rock Copeland, Vice Chairman
Charlie Bayle
Chris Drexel
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerman
Jim Winarski

Erie County Courthouse
140 West 6th Street, Room 117
Erie, PA 16501

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Scutella called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01 P.M.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was offered by Mrs. Schauerman.

ROLL CALL

Present: Terry Scutella- Chair, Rock Copeland-Vice Chair, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerman, and Jim Winarski
Absent: Chris Drexel

Others present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Tom Talarico, Esq., Jay Stranahan, Esq., and Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Others

Cindy Treiber, Edinboro: Ms. Treiber listed concerns she had with Mr. Bayle's ideals on race and his allegiance to the Pennsylvania State Troopers. She requested that Mr. Bayle recuse himself from any votes on the Woodard case.

Michelle Dovishaw, City of Erie: Ms. Dovishaw stated her autistic son was now scared of law enforcement. She discussed the movement of the parole officer involved in the shooting to another county. She requested forward movement on the Marchello Woodard case.

Terry Roberts, City of Erie: Mr. Roberts stated there were witnesses and video of the shooting of Mr. Woodard, yet the alleged shooter remained free. Mr. Roberts questioned why this person was not in jail. He urged Council to apply pressure to the situation because otherwise the Erie PD and Sheriff's Department would suffer the consequences for the PSP and Parole Officers actions.

Robert Takacs, City of Erie: Mr. Takacs stated his black family members were afraid of law enforcement. He asked for justice.

Malcolm Pulliam, City of Erie: Mr. Pulliam stated it was 55 days since Mr. Woodard was shot. He declared that the justice system failed our community. He remarked the District Attorney needed to speak out on the situation, and reminded Council "No Justice, No Peace".

Mimi O'Connor, City of Erie: Ms. O'Connor stated that sacred activism had been born out of Mr. Woodard's death, but passion and purpose needed action. She requested Council to speak out.

Constantine Hiotis, City of Erie: Mr. Hiotis stated that legislation has been passed that parole officers were required to wear body cameras and questioned why it was not enforced. He stated none of this would be an issue if the parole officers had followed that law. He emphasized his wife was coming for City Hall and then he would.

(Note: The bill did not require parole officers to wear body cameras, it allowed them to wear body cameras)

Michael Woodard, City of Erie: Mr. Woodard expressed frustration that nothing has been done since the last Council meeting. He stated he reached out to a City Council member and was assured that that person was going to speak to County Council Chairman. Mr. Scutella stated that it had not happened. Mr. Woodard stated that City Council was giving false hope to the coalition, and County Council needed to call them on it. He asked for resources for the family. He also requested help in contacting Mike Ferrito and others.

Jerry Roberts, City of Erie: Mr. Roberts stated County Council did not respond when asked direct questions and it suggested a cover-up. He voiced concerns about the accused being moved to another county when his behavior had escalated from a prison job targeting minorities to a parole officer job killing them.

Jerry Staszewski, City of Erie: Mr. Staszewski offered Council his interpretation of the county code on emergency meetings. He questioned why there was no emergency meeting called, and the Council did not respond to questions. He stated that everyone had lost trust and faith in Council.

Attorney Talarico requested to address this issue. He stated that County Council does not respond to speakers but listen intently so that they can better inform themselves of the conversation.

Brenda Spears, City of Erie: Ms. Spears stated her family was afraid of law enforcement but were protesting. She stated that there was no justice in the matter of Marchello Woodard.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley stated that he would like a town hall meeting between officials and the community. He requested a forum where the Council members were encouraged to speak. He stated there was no trust in any elected official.

Dr. Susanne Kuligowski, City of Erie: Dr. Kuligowski reminded Council that silence can mean approval. She encouraged council to stop being complacent and be morally responsible.

Chanel, City of Erie: The speaker stated she had come to enjoy living in Erie after they moved here for her husband's job. She stated the pain for Marchello Woodard was loud, but the silence was louder from County Council. She stated she could not figure out where budgeted money for body cameras went, state or county offices.

Mabel Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson charged Council of "doing the same as your ancestors did." She stated that God would take care of this problem.

Cole Shenley, City of Erie: Mr. Schenley questioned why there was no answer in the Woodward case. He requested that County Council offer some information.

Chamelle Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson stated she wanted justice for her boyfriend, Mr. Woodard. She asked for a town hall meeting to ask direct questions and hear directly for members of Council.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or Designee	No report was offered by the County Executive or a designee.
Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland	Mr. Copeland reported on the items from the Finance Committee that were moved to the Council's meeting agenda.
Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski	Mr. Winarski reported there were no Personnel Committee items on the agenda.
Other	Mr. Horton thanked and welcomed the public for their ongoing concern in the Marchello Woodard case and stated that it was his wish that they would continue to be involved well after the case was completed. He noted that we would not discuss from the dais but was in favor of sharing with people on a one-on-one situation. He stated he was praying for the District Attorney. He asked people to continue to show up, especially since it was almost budget

time.

Mr. Copeland expressed sadness for the community over the Woodard case. He noted he was aware of the body camera issue and would like to have conversation on the topic. He encouraged everyone to continue their conversations.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 37, 2025, "First Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,938 for Additional Tuberculosis Funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Health" (First Read 8/12/25) (Finance Committee)

A motion to accept was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 38, 2025, "Eighth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$30,000 and Creation of a Line Item for New Central Booking Fee" (First Read 8/12/25) (Finance Committee)

Mr. Horton stated that his vote would be no in protest. The motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 5-1.

Yea: (Bayle, Copeland, Schauerma, Scutella, Winarski)
Nay: (Horton)

Ordinance Number 39, 2025, "Ninth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$366,000 for Federal Reimbursement of County Prison Boiler Replacement" (First Read 8/12/25) (Finance Committee)

A motion to table for two weeks, until more information could be gathered, was made by Mr. Winarski and seconded by Mrs. Schauerma. The motion failed in a 3-3 vote.

Yea: (Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski)
Nay: (Copeland, Horton, Scutella)

A motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and failed 3-3.

Yea: (Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski)
Nay: (Copeland, Horton, Scutella)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 27-006-100.0-007.00 (Tabled 8/12/25) (Finance Committee)

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Number 19, 2025, "Approving the 2026-2028 Erie County Operational and Capital Plan with County Council Response" The resolution was read into the record. The motion was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 6-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, September 4, 2025. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Winarski and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.
The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, September 9, 2025.